

Department of State

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PAGE 01 STATE 290640 ORIGIN NODE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV: G MATTHEWS: GA APPROVED BY S/MS: M.D. SHULHAN

NSC: RBATRHOLOMEN (INFO)

H: B ATWOOD ARA: Y VAKY

ANA: V VAKY S/S: F WISNER

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E.O. 11652: GOS

TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, CU

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON MIG-23'S IN CUBA

NODIS REVIEW	
Cart. A - Caption removed:	
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC	
with additional access controlled by S/S Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S	TAKE TO
Reviewed by: July Breyon	
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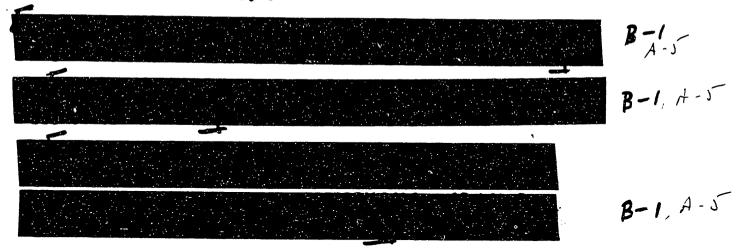
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- 2. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE (ON IF ASKED BASIS) PREPARED FOR NOVEMBER 15 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:
- Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT THERE ARE MIG-23 AIRCRAFT IN CUBA?
- A. A LIMITED NUMBER OF THESE AIRCRAFT ARE NOW IN CUBA AND WE HAVE HAD THIS MATTER UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION AND CAREFUL STUDY FOR SOME TIME.
- Q. WHEN DID WE FIRST BECOME AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE MIG-23'S IN CUBA?
- A. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THIS MATTER FOR SOME TIME. AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS A MATTER INVOLVING OUR INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION CAPABILITIES AND WE DO NOT COMMENT ON SECRET SECRET

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INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

- O. DO WE CONSIDER THE PRESENCE OF THESE AIRCRAFT IN CUBA A VIOLATION OF THE 1962 UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION?
- A. WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THIS MAITER TO DEVELOP THE FACTUAL SITUATION. WE REGARD WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSMESS UNDERSTANDINGS OF THIS CHARACTER WITH THE SOTIET WHICH AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, THIS IS A

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MESTION WE ARE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATING.

- B. ARE THE MIG-23'S NUCLEAR-CAPABLE?
- A. AS I HAVE SAID, WE ARE PURSUING THE MATTER ACTIVELY TO DEVELOP THE FACTS.
- O. WILL THIS HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE SALT REGOTIATIONS?
- A. WE SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE REGOTIATIONS.
- O. WILL IT HAVE AN EFFECT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH CUBA?
- A. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH WILL BE DETERMINED AS PART OF OUR INVESTIGATION OF THE OVERALL QUESTION.
- Q. HAVE WE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIETS ABOUT OUR CONCERN OVER THEIR SENDING THESE AIRCRAFT TO CUBA?
- A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS POINT. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT WE ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.
- Q. HAVE WE TAKEN IT UP WITH CUBA?

A. NO COMMENT. SECRET SECRET

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- D. HAS THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP BEEN BRIEFED?
- A. (TAKE IT).
- 3. YOU ARE RECEIVING BY SEPTEL A NOVEMBER 15 COLUMN BY EVANS AND NOVAK WHICH GIVES A SENSATIONALIZED ACCOUNT OF THE MIG-23 AIRCRAFT IN CUBA.



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